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ACTION INR-05

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PA-01 INM-01 INRE-00 SSC-01 SP-01 DS-01 OIG-01
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0673
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DIA WASHDC

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 03 LIMA 12153

DIA FOR OA-5/OS-1D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

DEA FOR AO, DO, OF, OC, OISL, DOIC

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, ASEC, SNAR, PHUM, PE
SUBJECT: THE MAN BEHIND FUJIMORI'S THRONE: A BIO
REPORT ON VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS

1. SUMMARY. THIS REPORT PROVIDES BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN) AND THE MAN BELIEVED TO BE PRESIDENT FUJIMORI'S PRINCIPAL ADVISOR ON NARCOTICS, SUBVERSION, AND HUMAN RIGHTS. MONTESINOS WAS CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE PRIME MINISTER UNDER THE VELASCO DICTATORSHIP. HE WAS DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED FROM THE ARMY IN 1977 AND TRIED, ACCUSED OF "DISOBEDIENCE" AND SELLING STATE SECRETS TO THE U.S. EMBASSY. AFTER LEAVING PRISON HE EARNED A LAW DEGREE AND BEGAN DEFENDING FOREIGNERS ACCUSED OF NARCOTICS CRIMES. HIS CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT FUJIMORI CAME THROUGH MRS. FUJIMORI WHOM MONTESINOS REPRESENTED IN SEVERAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS.

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END SUMMARY.

2. VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS, AN ATTORNEY AND FORMER ARMY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONALD A. JOHNSTON
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CAPTAIN, APPEARS TO HAVE BECOME THE SINGLE MOST INFLUENTIAL ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT ALBERTO FUJIMORI ON SECURITY-RELATED MATTERS. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY SEVERAL RELIABLE SOURCES THAT MONTESINOS PLAYED THE PRINCIPAL ROLE IN THE REORGANIZATION OF THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP, THE PURGE OF THE NATIONAL POLICE FORCE, AND THE EMERGING PROMINENCE OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIN).

3. OFFICIALLY, MONTESINOS IS DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF SIN. UNOFFICIALLY, HE MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT PLAYER IN THE FUJIMORI GOVERNMENT ON TERRORISM, NARCOTICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS. FROM SEVERAL SOURCES WE HAVE GLEANED WHAT WE JUDGE TO BE GENERALLY RELIABLE INFORMATION ON THE BACKGROUND OF VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS.

4. ACCORDING TO A RETIRED [REDACTED] OFFICER WHO DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL FRIEND OF MONTESINOS [REDACTED] VLADIMIRO MONTESINOS WAS ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST ARMY OFFICERS DURING THE GOVERNMENT OF GENERAL JUAN VELASCO. HE HELD A DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY. HIS TALENTS WERE RECOGNIZED BY ARMY GENERAL MERCADO JARRIN WHO SELECTED MONTESINOS AS HIS CHIEF OF STAFF. WHEN MERCADO JARRIN WAS NAMED PRIME MINISTER BY VELASCO ALVARADO, HE TOOK HIS AIDE DE CAMP WITH HIM.

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BUT MONTESINOS BEGAN TO MAKE ENEMIES IN THE ARMY. MERCADO JARRIN RELIED TOO HEAVILY ON HIM. IT BECAME WIDELY KNOWN THAT MERCADO JARRIN DID NOTHING WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF HIS YOUNG CAPTAIN. GENERAL OFFICER PROMOTION LISTS WERE FIRST REVIEWED BY MONTESINOS. THIS INFURIATED SENIOR OFFICERS WHO COMPLAINED TO GENERAL MERCADO JARRIN, TO NO AVAIL.

6. MERCADO JARRIN RETIRED JANUARY 31, 1975. ARMY GENERAL MORALES BERMUDEZ WAS NAMED THE NEW PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF WAR. SEVEN MONTHS LATER, AUGUST 29, 1975, VELASCO WAS OUSTED IN A BLOODLESS

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COUP AND MORALES BERMUDEZ BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC.

7. FOR A TIME THINGS WENT WELL FOR MONTESINOS,
THOUGH THE NEW MILITARY LEADERSHIP WAS FAR TO THE
RIGHT POLITICALLY OF THE PREVIOUS ONE. THEN, SOME
TIME AFTER AUGUST 1975, MONTESINOS WAS OFFERED A TRIP
TO THE U.S. BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. HE ACCEPTED.
THERE ARE ALLEGATIONS THAT MONTESINOS FORGED THE ARMY
DOCUMENTS AUTHORIZING THE TRIP. IN ANY CASE, WHEN
HIS COLONEL FOUND THAT HE HAD LEFT, MONTESINOS WAS
CHARGED WITH DESERTION.

8. WHEN MONTESINOS RETURNED FROM THE U.S. HE FOUND
THAT HE WAS FACING CHARGES. OUR SOURCE SAYS THAT THE
MATTER WAS COMPLICATED BY AN ADDITIONAL ACCUSATION
ORIGINATING FROM A SMALL GROUP OF VERY RADICAL ARMY

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0674
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DIA FOR OA-5/OS-1D/DB-6D2/JSI-4B/DB-3C1

DEA FOR AO, DO, OF, OC, OISL, DOIC

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, PTER, ASEC, SNAR, PHUM, PE
SUBJECT: THE MAN BEHIND FUJIMORI'S THRONE: A BIO
OFFICERS WHO WERE FURIOUS THAT MONTESINOS SEEMED TO
BE COMPROMISING HIS POLITICS TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEW
REGIME. THESE RADICALS ACCUSED MONTESINOS OF GIVING

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THE U.S. EMBASSY A SECRET ARMY DOCUMENT LISTING ALL OF THE GOP'S WEAPONS PURCHASES FROM THE SOVIET UNION UNDER VELASCO. THE PROOF OF THE ACCUSATION WAS AN APPARENT LEAK FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY CONFIRMING THAT MONTESINOS HAD TURNED OVER THE DOCUMENT.

9. OUR SOURCE CLAIMS NOT TO KNOW IF THE CHARGES AGAINST MONTESINOS WERE TRUE. HE STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW IF THE TRAVEL PAPERS WERE FORGED OR IF MONTESINOS HAD GIVEN ANY SECRET DOCUMENTS TO ANYONE. MONTESINOS DENIES BOTH ACCUSATIONS.

10. APPARENT CONFIRMATION OF THE LEAKED DOCUMENT
[REDACTED]
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STORY HAS COME FROM A NOT ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED SOURCE. INDEPENDENT DEPUTY FERNANDO OLIVERA HAS RELEASED TO THE PRESS A COPY OF A SECRET DOCUMENT ALLEGEDLY PREPARED FOR THE USE OF FORMER JOINT CHIEFS' NAVAL COMMANDER, ADMIRAL ALFONSO PANIZO, WHICH LISTS A SERIES OF ACCUSATIONS AGAINST MONTESINOS. THE DOCUMENT, DATED JULY 13, 1990, BEFORE FUJIMORI'S INAUGURATION AND PRIOR TO PANIZO'S FIRING, IS ALSO BELIEVED TO BE THE WORK OF MONTESINOS.

11. THE OLIVERA/PANIZO DOCUMENT LISTS A SERIES OF CHARGES, INCLUDING "SELLING STATE INFORMATION AND MILITARY SECRETS." THE DOCUMENT ALSO REPORTS THAT MONTESINOS WAS CONVICTED OF "PERJURY AND MILITARY DISOBEDIENCE" IN JULY 1977 AND WAS CHARGED WITH TREASON IN OCTOBER 1983.

12. OUR SOURCE CONFIRMS THE DETAILS OF MONTESINOS' CONVICTION. HE WAS KICKED OUT OF THE ARMY AND IMPRISONED FOR 12 MONTHS, RELEASED, HOSPITALIZED WITH COMPLICATIONS FROM HEPATITIS CONTRACTED IN PRISON, SURVIVED AN APPARENT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, RECOVERED, AND FLED TO ARGENTINA.

13. IN THE SUCCEEDING YEARS MONTESINOS EARNED A LAW DEGREE AND RETURNED TO PERU TO PRACTICE. HE BEGAN DEFENDING ACCUSED NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT WITHIN A FEW YEARS MONTESINOS WAS PRIMARILY DEFENDING ACCUSED TRAFFICKERS, BUT ONLY FOREIGNERS. THE OLIVERA/PANIZO DOCUMENT CLAIMS MONTESINOS WAS

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INVOLVED IN THE "VILLA COCA" CASE. OUR SOURCE CLAIMS THAT MONTESINOS REFUSED TO ACCEPT PERUVIAN DRUG CLIENTS.

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14. MONTESINOS' PRACTICE REPORTEDLY FLOURISHED BECAUSE HE HAD HUNDREDS OF CONTACTS FROM HIS DAYS AS CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRIME MINISTER. HE KNEW WHO TO BRIBE TO GET HIS CLIENTS RELEASED FROM JAIL AND WHICH JUDGES TO BRIBE TO SPEED A TRIAL OR TO WIN AN ACQUITTAL. NOT ONLY DID MONTESINOS GET A REPUTATION AS ONE OF PERU'S MOST ABLE DRUG LAWYERS, HE ALSO GOT RICH.

15. COMMENT: OUR SOURCE DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF MONTESINOS, ONE OF THE FEW MEN TO STAY LOYAL TO HIM DURING HIS LEGAL PROBLEMS WITH THE MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM. NEVERTHELESS, HE SPEAKS OPENLY ABOUT MONTESINOS' DRUG INVOLVEMENT, ARGUING THAT BY REFUSING PERUVIAN DRUG DEALERS, MONTESINOS KEPT HIMSELF CLEAN. HE DESCRIBES MONTESINOS AS A MAN WHO HAD BECOME BITTER AND CYNICAL, WHO WANTED TO MAKE MONEY SO THAT HE WOULD NEVER AGAIN BE A PRISONER OF THE SYSTEM. OUR SOURCE BELIEVES THAT MONTESINOS IS A MORAL MAN. END COMMENT.

16. WE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY HEARD FROM SEPARATE SOURCES INFORMATION WHICH LARGELY CONFIRMS MONTESINOS' BACKGROUND AS DESCRIBED ABOVE. MONTESINOS WAS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL TOPICS OF CONVERSATION DURING A DINNER HOSTED BY THE EMBASSY AND ATTENDED BY THREE RETIRED ARMY GENERALS, INCLUDING HIS FORMER BOSS, MERCADO JARRIN. THE EX-PRIME MINISTER ADDED THAT MONTESINOS' RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT FUJIMORI WAS ACCOMPLISHED

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THROUGH MRS. FUJIMORI WHOM MONTESINOS REPRESENTED IN
SEVERAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS. THE LEGALITY OF
SOME OF THOSE TRANSACTIONS WAS A CAMPAIGN ISSUE
DURING FUJIMORI'S RUN-OFF WITH MARIO VARGAS LLOSA.

17. THESE GENERALS ALSO REPORT THAT MONTESINOS
ACHIEVED FUJIMORI'S CONFIDENCE WHILE ADVISING THE
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO THE
CAMPAIGN ATTACKS ON HIS AND HIS WIFE'S PROPERTY
HOLDINGS. WE WILL REPORT SEPARATELY HOW MONTESINOS
HAS USED THE NEW PRESIDENT'S TRUST TO SHAPE THE GOP'S
BUDDING ANTI-SUBVERSIVE/NARCOTICS AND MILITARY POLICY.

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